Listing of the Claims:

1. – 63. (Cancelled).

64.   (Previously Presented) A method of controlling electronic mail (e-mail) message transmission over a network comprised of:

receiving, by a third entity, a first set of encoded e-mail addresses from a first entity, wherein said first set of encoded e-mail addresses represents e-mail addresses to which an e-mail message could be sent;

compiling, by said third entity, a second set of encoded e-mail addresses, wherein said second set of encoded e-mail addresses represents e-mail addresses to which said e-mail message should not be sent; and

removing, by said third entity, from said first set of encoded e-mail addresses, each encoded e-mail address that is in said second set of encoded e-mail addresses thereby yielding a third set of encoded e-mail addresses, wherein said third set of encoded e-mail addresses represents e-mail addresses to which said e-mail message may be sent,

wherein a second entity is a source of said e-mail message.

65.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 wherein receiving said first set of encoded e-mail addresses includes receiving a first set of hash coded e-mail addresses.

66.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 wherein said first entity is an e-mail mass mailer.

67.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 wherein removing, by said third entity, from said first set of encoded e-mail addresses, each encoded e-mail address that is in said second set of encoded e-mail addresses thereby yielding said third set of encoded e-mail addresses comprises:

sorting said first set of encoded e-mail addresses into a first ordered list of encoded e-mail addresses wherein said encoded e-mail addresses are in ascending order;

sorting said second set of encoded e-mail addresses into a second ordered list of encoded e-mail addresses wherein encoded e-mail addresses are in ascending order;

beginning with a first entry in said first ordered list of encoded e-mail addresses, and beginning with a first entry in said second ordered list, comparing the first entry in said first ordered list to the first entry in said second ordered list then successive entries in said second ordered list, until the value of an entry in said second ordered list equals or exceeds the value of the first entry in said first list; and

removing the first entry from said first list upon the detection in said second ordered list of the first entry in said first ordered list, thereby yielding said third set of encoded e-mail addresses.

68.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 further including sending said third set of encoded e-mail addresses to an e-mail mass mailer via a data network.

69.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 further including:

identifying e-mail addresses that are encoded in said third set of encoded e-mail addresses; and

e-mailing said e-mail message to said identified e-mail addresses.

70.   (Previously Presented) A method of controlling electronic mail (e-mail) message transmission over a network comprised of:

receiving, by a third entity, a first set of hash codes from a first entity, wherein said first set of hash codes represents e-mail addresses to which an e-mail message could be sent;

receiving, by said third entity, a second set of hash codes from a second entity, wherein said second set of hash codes represents e-mail addresses to which said e-mail message should not be sent; and

removing, by said third entity, from said first set of hash codes, each hash code that is in said second set thereby yielding a third set of hash codes, wherein said third set of hash codes represents e-mail addresses to which said e-mail message may be sent,

wherein said second entity is a source of said e-mail message.

71.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70 wherein said first entity is an e-mail mass mailer.

72.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70 wherein removing, by said third entity, from said first set of hash codes, each hash code that is in said second set thereby yielding said third set of hash codes comprises:

i)   sorting said first set of hash codes into a first ordered list of hash codes;

ii)   sorting said second set of hash codes;

iii) beginning with a first entry in said first ordered list of hash codes and beginning with a first entry in said second ordered list, comparing the first entry in said first ordered list of hash codes to said first entry in said second ordered list of hash codes and successive entries in said second ordered list of hash codes, until the value of an entry in said second ordered list equals or exceeds the value of the first entry in said first list, or until the last entry in the second ordered list of hash codes has been compared; and

iv) upon the detection in said first ordered list of hash codes, of an entry in said second ordered list of hash codes that is identical to said first entry in said first ordered list, removing the first entry from said first ordered list.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70 further including sending said third set of encoded e-mail addresses to an e-mail mass mailer via a data network.

74. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling electronic mail (e-mail) message transmission over a network comprised of:

receiving, by a third entity, a first set of hash codes from a first entity, wherein said first set of hash codes represents e-mail addresses to which an e-mail message could be sent;

receiving, by said third entity, a second set of hash codes from a second entity, wherein said second set of hash codes represents e-mail addresses to which said e-mail message should not be sent; and

creating, by said third entity, a third set of hash codes that is comprised of the first set of hash codes minus hash codes that appear in the second set of hash codes, said third set of hash codes representing e-mail addresses to which said e-mail message may be sent,

wherein said second entity is a source of said e-mail message.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74 wherein said first entity is an e-mail mass mailer.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein creating said third set of hash codes comprises:

sorting said first set of hash codes into a first ordered list of hash codes;

sorting said second set of hash codes into a second ordered list of hash codes; and

copying entries of said first ordered list of hash codes into said third set of hash codes that do not exist in said second ordered list of hash codes.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74 further including sending said third set of hash codes to an e-mail mass mailer via a data network.

78. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling electronic mail (e-mail) message transmission over a data network comprised of:

receiving, by a third entity, a first set of hash codes from an e-mail mass mailer, said first set of hash codes being received via said data network, wherein said first set of hash codes represents e-mail addresses to which an e-mail message could be sent;

comparing, by a third entity, said first set of hash codes to a second set of hash codes, wherein said second set of hash codes represents e-mail addresses to which said e-mail message should not be sent; and

removing, by said third entity, from said first set of hash codes, hash codes that are in said second set of hash codes to yield a third set of hash codes that represents e-mail addresses to which said e-mail message may be sent,

wherein a second entity is a source of said e-mail message.

79.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78 further comprising sending said third set of hash codes back to said e-mail mass mailer.

80.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78 wherein said first and second sets of hash codes are comprised of alpha-numeric characters and are of the same length.

81.   (Previously Presented) A method of controlling electronic mail (e-mail) message transmission over a data network comprised of:

receiving, by a third entity, a first set of hash codes from an e-mail mass mailer, said first set of hash codes being received via said data network and representing e-mail addresses to which an e-mail message could be sent;

comparing, by said third entity, said first set of hash codes to a second set of hash codes, wherein said second set of hash codes represents e-mail addresses to which said e-mail message should not be sent; and

creating, by said third entity, a third set of hash codes that is comprised of hash codes in said first set of hash codes that are not in said second set of hash codes, wherein said third set of hash codes represents e-mail addresses to which said e-mail message may be sent,

wherein a second entity is a source of said e-mail message.

82.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 81 further comprising sending said third set of hash codes back to said e-mail mass mailer.

83.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 82 wherein said first and second sets of hash codes are comprised of alpha-numeric characters and are of the same length.

84.   (Previously Presented) A method of controlling electronic mail (e-mail) message transmission over a network comprised of:

receiving, by a third entity, a first set of hash coded e-mail addresses from a first entity, wherein said first set of hash coded e-mail addresses represents e-mail addresses to which an e-mail message could be sent;

compiling, by said third entity, a second set of hash coded e-mail addresses, wherein said second set of hash coded e-mail addresses represents e-mail addresses to which said e-mail message should not be sent;

identifying, by said third entity, hash coded e-mail addresses in said first set of hash coded e-mail addresses that do not appear in said second set of hash coded e-mail addresses; and

removing, by said third entity, from said first set of hash coded e-mail addresses, each hash coded e-mail address that is not in said second set of hash coded e-mail addresses thereby

yielding a third set of hash coded e-mail addresses that represent e-mail addresses to which said e-mail message may be sent,

wherein a second entity is a source of said e-mail message.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 84 further including sending said third set of hash coded e-mail addresses to an e-mail sender via a data network.

86. (Previously Presented) A method of sending an electronic mail (e-mail) message to a plurality of e-mail addresses comprised of:

hash coding, by a first entity, a first list of e-mail addresses to yield a first list of hash coded e-mail addresses, wherein said first list of hash coded e-mail addresses represents e-mail addresses to which an e-mail message could be sent;

hash coding, by a second entity, a second list of e-mail addresses to yield a second list of hash coded-email addresses, wherein said second list of hash coded e-mail addresses represents e-mail addresses to which said e-mail message should not be sent;

transmitting, by said first entity, said first list of hash coded e-mail addresses to an e-mail address filtration service provider;

transmitting, by said second entity, said second set of hash coded e-mail addresses to said e-mail address filtration service provider; and

creating, by said e-mail address filtration service provider a third list of hash coded e-mail addresses, wherein said third list of hash coded e-mail addresses represents e-mail addresses to which said e-mail message may be sent,

wherein said second entity is a source of said e-mail message.

87. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for controlling electronic mail (e-mail) message transmission over a network comprised of:

a computer, operatively coupled to a data network, wherein said data network includes or is operatively coupled to a first entity and a second entity, wherein said computer is capable of receiving from said first entity a first set of encoded e-mail addresses, wherein said first set of encoded e-mail addresses represents e-mail addresses to which an e-mail message could be sent, and wherein said second entity is the source of said e-mail message;

a first memory device, operatively coupled to said computer, said first memory device storing a second set of encoded e-mail addresses representing e-mail addresses to which an e-mail message should not be sent; and

said first memory device also storing program instructions which when executed, by said computer, cause said computer to:

store in said first memory device, at least part of said first set of encoded e-mail addresses;

remove from said first set of encoded e-mail addresses stored in said memory, each encoded e-mail address in said second set of encoded e-mail addresses that is also in said first set of encoded e-mail addresses thereby yielding a third set of encoded e-mail addresses, said third set of encoded e-mail addresses being encoded e-mail addresses to which said e-mail message may be sent; and

store at least part of said third set of encoded e-mail addresses in said memory.

88.　(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 87 wherein said program instructions, when executed by said computer, further cause said computer to sort said first set of encoded e-mail addresses.

89.　(Previously Presented) An apparatus for controlling electronic mail (e-mail) message transmission over a network comprised of:

a computer, operatively coupled to a data network, wherein said data network includes or is operatively coupled to a first entity and a second entity, wherein said computer is capable of receiving from said first entity a first set of hash codes, wherein said first set of hash codes represents e-mail addresses to which an e-mail message could be sent, wherein said second entity is the source of said e-mail message, and wherein said computer is also capable of executing program instructions;

a first memory device, operatively coupled to said computer, said first memory device storing a second set of hash codes; and

said first memory device also storing program instructions which when executed by said computer cause said computer to:

store in said first memory device, at least part of said first set of hash codes;

remove from said first set of hash codes, each hash code in said second set of hash codes, yielding a third set of hash codes, said third set of hash codes representing e-mail addresses to which an e-mail message may be sent; and

store at least part of said third set of hash codes in said memory.

90.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 89, wherein said program instructions, when executed by said computer, further cause said computer to compare e-mail addresses that have been encoded using a hash code algorithm.

91.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 89, wherein said program instructions, when executed by said computer, further cause said computer to sort hash codes that represent e-mail addresses.

92.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 89, wherein said program instructions, when executed by said computer, further cause said computer to hash code a variable-length string of an e-mail addresses into a fixed-length string of alpha-numeric characters.

93.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 further including, prior to receiving said first set of encoded e-mail addresses, specifying an e-mail address domain name and purging from said first set of encoded e-mail addresses, all encoded e-mail addresses associated with said domain name.

94.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70 further including, prior to receiving said first set of hash codes, specifying an e-mail address domain name and purging from said first set of hash codes all hash codes associated with said domain name.

95.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, further comprising sending, by said third entity, to each of the first entity and the second entity an encoding algorithm for encoding e-mail addresses.

96.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, further comprising ending, by said third entity, to each of the first entity and the second entity a hashing algorithm for hashing e-mail addresses.

97.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said third entity is an e-mail list manager.

98.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, wherein said third entity is an e-mail list manager.

99.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, further comprising:

identifying, by said first entity, e-mail addresses that are hashed in said third set of hash codes; and

e-mail said e-mail message to said identified e-mail addresses.

100.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 87, wherein said program instructions, when executed by said computer, further cause said computer to send, to each of a first entity and a second entity an encoding algorithm for encoding e-mail addresses.

101.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of claim 89, wherein said programming instructions, when executed by said computer, further cause said computer to send, to each of a first entity and a second entity a hashing algorithm for hashing e-mail addresses.

102.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 87, wherein:

said computer is associated with an e-mail list manager; and

said first entity is associated with an e-mail mass mailer.

103.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 89, wherein:

said computer is associated with an e-mail list manager; and

said first entity is associated with an e-mail mass mailer.

104.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 87, wherein said programming instructions, when executed by said computer, further causes said computer to send the at least part of said third set of encoded e-mail addresses to said first entity.

105.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of claim 89, wherein said programming instructions, when executed by said computer, further causes said computer to send the at least part of said third set of hash codes to said first entity.